

PACCA
PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE
ANNUAL REPORT
September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010

The Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse (PACCA) is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency, community and cross-governmental body organized to meet regularly to consider issues related to all forms of child abuse. The Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse (PACCA) is a group made up of representatives from a range of provincial government and community organizations. PACCA considers policy issues related to child abuse and provides recommendations to the Executive Director of Child Protection Branch of Manitoba Family Services and Consumer Affairs. Although the Government of Manitoba supports PACCA and is represented on the committee, PACCA is an independent body.

PURPOSE

The general purpose of PACCA is to co-ordinate efforts to prevent the abuse of children. PACCA was established in 1972 pursuant to a joint commitment of the departments of Health, Education and Youth, Justice, and Family Services and Consumer Affairs to recommend and advocate ways of ensuring effective and efficient interdepartmental and interdisciplinary action in Manitoba. The focus of this work includes service delivery, professional development, public education, treatment, prevention and research for children who may be victims or at risk of being victims of child abuse. The general activities of PACCA are as follows:

1. To advise and assist all key departments and disciplines in facilitating and coordinating which may include assisting with the development of legislation, policies, guidelines, protocols, standard setting, program planning, implementation and review.
2. To promote research and education relative to child abuse and protection.
3. To facilitate interdepartmental and interdisciplinary/community cooperation regarding child abuse issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership on PACCA is by appointment under the authority of the four departments, related agencies and institutions as follows:

Department of Manitoba Health and Healthy Living, Youth
Department of Education
Department of Family Services and Consumer Affairs
Manitoba Child Care Program

Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba
Disabilities Programs
Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Office of the Children's Advocate
Salvation Army
Red River College
Child Protection Centre – Health Sciences Centre
Canadian Centre for Child Protection
Winnipeg Police Service
Southern Authority Child and Family Services
General Authority Child and Family Services
Northern Authority Child and Family Services
Métis Authority Child, Community and Family Services
Faculty of Social Work – University of Manitoba
Department of Justice
Office of Chief Medical Examiner

ACTIVITIES FROM SUB COMMITTEES

EDUCATION

On October 15, 2009, PACCA presented a full-day public seminar entitled, Youth Self-Harm. The presentation provided an overview of the phenomenon of self-harm, as well as information about associated features and a review of treatment approaches. The keynote speaker was Dr. Laurence Katz from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health department at the Health Sciences Centre. The afternoon portion consisted of a panel discussion on issues service providers face in delivering services to this population with representation from Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, Macdonald Youth Services, Manitoba Family Services and that of an Elder. The presentation was well attended and participants indicated their interest in attending future presentations by PACCA on related topics.

A second half day educational seminar was held on April 16, 2010, entitled Gender Identity, Expression and Variance. This presentation provided an understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; developing recognition and understanding of the impact of homophobic, biphobic and tran phobic bullying; recognition of personal bias; understanding of gender inclusive environments including accommodations and safety; and information on adaptations which recognize gender inclusivity (policy, environment, curricula). The keynote presenter Chad Smith was from the Rainbow Resource Centre.

INTERVIEW TRAINING MANUALS

In 2005, the Manitoba Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse (PACCA) embarked on its most ambitious project to date: the creation of a Manitoba-based training video for child welfare social workers conducting abuse investigation

interviews of children. The Video Project Sub-Committee, with several dedicated members of PACCA, led this initiative. The goal was to create a training video that could be distributed to all child welfare agencies in Manitoba, reflecting best practices in interview techniques and the cultural diversity of Manitoba's population.

With the use of Manitoba child welfare social workers as the videotaped interviewers, and children of staff of the child welfare system as actors improvising the role of an abused child, PACCA took a unique approach to this training video that has not been utilized in other training materials on this topic.

Since 2005, the activities undertaken by the Video Project Sub-Committee to see this project to completion include:

- A feasibility assessment of the project and examination of existing training materials (05-06)
- Attainment of initial funding of \$2000 (06)
- Establishment of creative team, including director, film crew, script outline, filming locations, etc. (06/07)
- Identification of social workers and child/youth participants (06/07)
- Filming of video participants (06/07)
- Attainment of additional funding of \$6000 (07)
- Development of video narrative (07)
- Filming of Tina Keeper, host of the video (07)
- Clinical editing (07/08)
- Recording of narration (08)
- Final editing and script synchronization (08/09)
- DVD cover design (09)
- Attainment of production funding (09)
- Premiere of video and distribution (09)

The end result of this project is a powerful and realistic demonstration of how interviews unfold under best practices, with natural and spontaneous responses from children at different ages and stages. The video demonstrates the components of an effective child abuse investigative interview, based on the Step-Wise model developed by John Yuille, and also portrays two full-length interviews. Attention is paid to both physical and sexual abuse interviews, as well as issues requiring medical assessment, police investigation, and corroborating evidence. There is also a segment demonstrating development assessment interviewing of preschool children.

The video was premiered for participants and leaders of the various systems involved in child abuse investigations in June 2009. Videos were distributed to all child welfare agencies in Manitoba in September 2009. Members of the Sub-Committee also presented at the Awakening the Spirit conference in Winnipeg in October 2009 to screen the video and discuss its creation. Copies of the video are now available for purchase at a nominal fee of \$50 and to date, have been sought by agencies in other provinces and the United States.

SAFE SLEEP ENVIRONMENTS FOR INFANTS

This committee was originally formed in 2001 and was first named Infant Death due to Caregiver Rollover Sub-Committee. The name was changed this past year to reflect that a number of factors are related to infant death during sleep. Sub-committee members represent a variety of disciplines including social work, medicine, police, and nursing.

In Manitoba there is an average of one sudden and unexpected death every month of a healthy infant during sleep (Children's Inquest Review Committee, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, April 27, 2009). Due to the evidence of risks to infants as a result of unsafe sleeping practices and environments and following the related positions put forward by Health Canada and the Canadian Pediatric Society, the sub-committee developed the following position statement on safe sleeping this past year on behalf of PACCA:

There is substantial evidence of risks to infants as a result of unsafe sleeping practices, particularly related to sleep position, sharing of a sleep surface (e.g. bed or couch), and use of soft bedding and pillows. In keeping with related position statements and professional and parent advice put forward by Health Canada and the Canadian Pediatric Society, parents should be advised and encouraged to place their infants to sleep on their back in a crib that meets Canadian safety standards and for the first six months (in particular) with the crib in the same room as parents or caregiver(s).

Subsequently the sub-committee developed a letter which was sent to the Executive Director of the Child Protection Branch in order to share PACCA's position statement on safe sleep environments for infants and the rationale for its development. Since child welfare social workers have frequent contact with families caring for infants (biological, adopted, and foster), they are in a strategic position to promote these safe sleeping practices with the families with whom they are involved. Following a meeting with the Executive Director it was determined that other child protection programs across Canada would be surveyed on an informal basis to determine their related policies and practices in this area. One area that has been identified and is under discussion is that some parents may not be able to afford a crib that meets Canadian safety standards.

In June, 2010 the Safe Sleep Environments for Infants Sub-Committee developed an information sheet entitled, *ABCs of Safe Sleep for Baby*. The purpose of this information sheet was to provide basic information on safe sleep environments for infants based on materials developed by the Canadian Paediatric Society and Health Canada. The information sheet was shared with the Executive Director of the Child Protection Branch with a request for distribution to child welfare social workers who

have frequent contact with families caring for infants (biological, adopted, and foster) with whom they are involved.

The Safe Sleep Environments for Infants sub-committee concluded its mandate in August, 2010.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The PACCA Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee was formed in 2007 to address the demand or offender side of child sexual exploitation. It is chaired by a Sexual Exploitation Specialist from the Child Protection Branch and membership includes representation from the Winnipeg Police Service, RCMP, MB Prosecutions and Corrections, U of M Faculty of Social Work, Prostitution Offender Program (Salvation Army Corrections), Provincial Abuse Investigators from the Child Protection Branch, other PACCA executive committee members from the Child Protection Branch and others. Sharing of information among sectors and brainstorming new ideas on how to address the demand and offender side of sexual exploitation are standard agenda items.

This year, the committee produced a Fact Sheet with common statements or excuses used by offenders of the five types of child sexual exploitation that comprises the Manitoba Sexual Exploitation Strategy. The Fact Sheet was distributed widely to all PACCA Members who were asked to fan the sheet out to their respective email networks during the second annual Stop Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week, March 8 to 14, 2010. The purpose of the Fact Sheet is to increase awareness among multi-sector collaterals regarding the five types of child sexual exploitation and common offences that occur in each of these categories. The offender statements contained in the Fact Sheet are intended to generate a visceral reaction and leave a lasting impression for the reader with respect to the heinous nature of these offences which is contradictory to the casual attitude about the activity as expressed by some of the offenders. The sheet also points out that each of these five types of child sexual exploitation is, in fact, child abuse and a crime. Anyone with information or suspicions about any of these activities should report it promptly to CFS, police or in the case of child pornography to cybertip.ca.

IAN LOGAN MEMORIAL AWARDS

The Ian Logan Memorial Award is presented annually to deserving individuals to recognize an individual's work in the area of child maltreatment prevention. The award is not restricted to any one profession or only professionally designated persons but is to recognize the work of any Manitoban who has enhanced the lives of children, youth and families across our province. The award was established in 1989 in memory of Sgt. Ian Logan a respected Winnipeg police officer and advocate for children.

In 2010 it became evident that our definition of community had grown and the ILMA criteria, selection process and nomination criteria were revised to reflect this change. Community continues to depict no boundaries but with the World Wide Web, social networking, and ease of travel our world has in some ways become smaller. Relative to this child abuse too has morphed for we now know that children are exploited and abused in ways that did not exist when the ILMA was initiated. Today's candidates have a new world view on child abuse, prevention and have attained new strategies to deal with our ever changing world.

Effective 2010 the ILMA will be awarded according to two categories; a Leadership Award and a Direct Services Award for the purpose of more accurately capturing the caliber and type of work of individuals across our province carry out and to ensure that individuals in both categories are recognized.

The following is a list of the Ian Logan Memorial Award recipients:

- 1989: posthumously Sgt. Ian Logan
- 1990: Dr. Kenneth N. McRae
- 1991: Award was not held
- 1992: Award was not held
- 1993: Award was not held
- 1994: Ms. Leslie Galloway & Sgt. Robin Parker
- 1995: Award was not held
- 1996: Dr. Charles Ferguson and Ms. Rosemary Somers
- 1997: Ms. Cynthia Willette
- 1998: Ms. Barb Hodge
- 1999: Mr. John P. Chudzik
- 2000: Ms. Norma Boule
- 2001: Ms. Brenda Ellerby
- 2002: Dr. Jim Reid and Ms. Roz Prober
- 2003: Award was not held
- 2004: Janet Mirwaldt and Dr. Sandy Banks
- 2005: Ms. Anne Loewen
- 2006: Award was not held
- 2007: Sergeant Brett Summers and Constable Marc Simard
- 2008: Award was not held
- 2009: Dr. Peter Markensteyn
- 2010: Dr. Joan Durrant and Ms. Alana Brownlee

MANDATORY REPORTING PROTOCOLS

The province of Manitoba is committed to a multi-disciplinary approach toward all aspects of child abuse and maltreatment including but not limited to reporting, intervention, prevention, treatment and management. In 1988 PACCA established a sub-committee for the development and distribution of child abuse protocols and guidelines for professionals. These protocols/manuals are in the process of being revised to reflect

the following: legislative changes and amendments pertaining to child pornography and age of consent; the restructuring of child welfare in the province of Manitoba which now includes the four Authorities and their agencies; and the need to ensure that all Manitobans are aware of their responsibility to report suspected child abuse and for every profession and discipline who works with children to be aware of their reporting obligations and responsibilities.

It is anticipated that a final draft will be complete by late fall, 2010 and that plans for distribution and the actual educational roll out of this Manual will occur in the new year of 2011.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

The PACCA website can be located at www.pacca.mb.ca. The website is administered through the Government of Manitoba, however is an independent site with its own domain. It provides information regarding PACCA such as its purpose and goals, reports, publications, public education activities, and links to useful sites on child abuse and its prevention. The website also lists the membership organizations belonging to PACCA and has a central email address for any inquiries.

The PACCA Website Sub-Committee meets on a regular basis to ensure the website reflects current PACCA activities, **information** and events. Recent updates included: News and Events Page, Ian Logan Memorial Award recipient updates, and the revised Resources and Links.

In addition to this, the sub-committee has undertaken an extensive review of all details and aspects of the website in consultation with the Website administrator to examine the overall layout, template, organization, and content; including links to community resources, PACCA forms and publications, and PACCA contact information.

The website sub-committee will be **active and ongoing to** ensure regular website updates that capture current news, events and activities of PACCA.

New Sub-Committees Established Effective – May 11, 2010

1. PACCA Newcomers & Immigrants Sub-Committee
2. PACCA 40th Anniversary Celebration Planning Sub-Committee

“This Annual Report includes additional information prior to the reporting period of August 31, 2009 – September 1, 2010 as agreed upon by Executive since the last published Annual Report was in 2002-2003.”